



**VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
SPY POND COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes: OCTOBER 27, 2015

Approved December 1, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Cheryl Miller, Bob and Harriet Noyes, Agnes O'Donnell.

Facilitator: Brad Barber

Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1. Town Hall Annex, first floor.

- The **minutes** of the previous meeting were discussed and accepted as presented.
- **EcoFest** 2016 will be held on Saturday, March 19 in Town Hall. The theme will be preparing for climate change in Arlington. The three Vision 20230 environmental committees can have recruiting booths in the lobby.
- **Town Day:** Our idea of posting a map of all environment-related booths at all such booths was favorably received at the recent meeting of the Friends of Spy Pond Park.
- **Birds** seen recently on and around the pond include ring-necked and ruddy ducks, two young ospreys, and a kingfisher.
- Most of the discussion centered on **water treatment for the pond.**
 - Brad distributed reports on aquatic plants and **chemicals** used for treatment. Attendees reviewed and summarized the reports: Fluridone (Sonar) “gives the most bang for the buck.” It must be used early in the growing season and works at low concentrations, 20 ppb or even less. It diffuses throughout the pond, but slowly. Diquat (Reward) is used for spot treatment of submerged weeds. Tricloropyr is used on woody plants; it does not affect monocots like sedges. Glyphosate (Roundup) was used against the phragmites and copper-based compounds against algae. Alum traps phosphates at the bottom of the pond but it is expensive and didn't do much to clear the water.
 - **Engelmann's Umbrella Sedge** (EUS): There is a difference of opinion among botanists: is this a separate species or a subspecies of a more common one (*Cyperus odoratus*)? It is a monocot, so it is not affected by Tricloropyr. The pond has been surveyed for EUS. The report can be made public without mentioning the specific sites where it was found, so that nobody would be tempted either to steal it or to destroy it.

- Teresa DeBenedictis met with an ACT representative to discuss **plans for treatment**. We need to deal with algae, phragmites, and weeds including the invasive, milfoil. We don't need a new NOI, just an update, and we probably have the support of the ConCom, but we need to convince the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP).
- **Next steps:** Find out from Teresa how much is in the water bodies fund (Jane). Find out from ACT how much the needed treatment would cost. Joey will contact the ConCom (Cori) and Brad will contact NHESP, Then submit a warrant article, in December or January, asking for money for the water bodies fund.